

As some who has worked in a range of broadcast companies, from a mom-and-pop radio group to Clear Channel, I have seen from the inside the damage that the current consolidation has done to the radio industry.

When working for the mom-and-pop, we were in Clear Channel's shadow, making it extremely difficult to get equitable treatment from the record labels, concert promoters, clients, and more. When working for Clear Channel in market 12, the radio station I worked for had NO competition in the market, leading to a decline in programming. When there is no competition, there is little effort made to better the product.

Who suffers? Not only those of us in the industry, but the general public as well. In many markets, turning on the radio and flipping through the dial makes one feel as though there is one voice coming through the speakers. Furthering the deregulation to other forms of media will just further the control of the "one voice." That was never the intent of the founders of this country when give us the right to a free press. How can the press (the media) truly be free when it is owned by a handful of companies?